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COUNTRY: Chile

SUBJECT: Health and Sanitation Data - Santiago

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PLACE ACQUIRED: 25X1A -

Pages: 2

DATE ACQUIRED:

DATE OF INFO: 1952 and earlier

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1. In 1952 the estimated population of Santiago was 1.2 million. The city itself is 24 sq m but it is surrounded by a group of boroughs with separate city governments giving an area of 60 sq m. Santiago uses the nearby port of San Antonio for commerce with the rest of the world. It has daily traffic by air with Argentina, and trains run to Argentina three times a week.
2. Per one thousand population, the annual birthrate is 50, the deathrate 35, and infant mortality is 720. Major causes of death are TB, typhoid and heart diseases. For the last five years (1947 - 1952), TB has claimed about two thousand to 2500 deaths and typhoid 1500 deaths. These diseases can be regarded as endemic.
3. A natural open lake in the mountains supplies Santiago's government-owned public water supply system. The water is distributed to 98 percent of the population by pipes, but this system must be improved. The sanitary condition of the water is good because of treatment by filtering plants and chloride. Per capita daily consumption is between 10 and 15 gallons. Ships are supplied from the public supply. There are a few wells in the isolated sections apart from the city water supply.
4. The health department exercises food control over all food processing including milk distribution. Cow's milk is bottled and pasteurized. Cattle are tuberculin tested by private veterinarians and city officials.
5. Sixty percent of the population is served by an operating sanitary sewerage system. Outside this system septic tanks are used for disposal of human excreta. Ultimate disposal of sewage is via the river to the sea. Human excreta is not used for fertilizing land and vegetables are not grown locally. Storm sewers are in existence. There are no places near the city where surface water collects and stands after a heavy rain. Garbage is collected every two days and is disposed of by burying. Refuse, dead animals and human dead are

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all buried. There is organized pest control over all types of pests.

6. In Santiago there are about 12 hospitals with a total of about 4500 beds. All medical services and common drugs are available. The local health administration exercises active control over public health problems and they are supplemented by community services, Red Cross, and private clinics. One hundred percent of the population are serviced by a public assistance system if needed. Communicable diseases are reported to the Public Health Service. Children receive immunization against smallpox, BCG, diphtheria, pertussis, and typhoid fever. Adults are immunized against smallpox every three years, and annually against typhoid.
7. General health conditions in Santiago are good and there are indications that such conditions are generally improving. The hazards which might affect infants and children are the lack of education of their mothers, malnutrition, housing conditions, and a low standard of living.

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TYPE ACT-DATE INFO-TFR-DATE AREA

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Sanitation &
Health
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FIRST CASE

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